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REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-25, and 68-110. Applicant canceled claims 9 and 26-67 in a previous communication, and canceled claim 73 in a Response filed January 27, 2006. By the present communication, Applicant amends claims 1, 4, 11-13, 68, 75-77, 84, 90, and 96-98 to further clarify the claimed subject matter and cancels claims 10, 14, 74, 78, and 99 without prejudice. Applicant also adds new dependent claims 111-114, which are believed allowable for the reasons discussed below. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-8, 11-13, 15-25, 68-72, 75-77, 79-98, and 100-114 will be pending in the present patent application. Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the pending claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the pending claims.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for contacting Applicant's representative to expedite prosecution of the present application and for his participation in a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on April 11, 2006. In this interview, the claims of the present patent application were generally discussed. Particularly, during the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner reached agreement on amendments to claims 1, 68, 84, and 90 that more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. By the present communication, claims 1, 68, 84, and 90 have been amended in the discussed manner. Additionally, dependent claims 4, 11-13, 75-77, and 96-98 were amended to correct the dependencies of these claims in light of the present cancellation of claims 10 and 74 or to reflect changes in antecedent basis of certain recited elements resulting from the present amendments. In view of the interview of April 11, 2006 and the present amendments, claims 1-8, 11-13, 15-25, 68-72, 75-77, 79-98, and 100-110 are believed allowable over the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. For these reasons, Applicant

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respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of these claims.

New Claims

New claims 111-114 have been added by this communication. Notably, these claims depend from independent claims 1, 68, 84, and 90, respectively. While portions of independent claims 1, 68, 84, and 90 recite a subset of alternative elements, the present dependent claims recite the presence of *each* element of the subset. Hence, these new claims add no new matter and are fully supported throughout the specification. Furthermore, in view of the present cancellation of a greater number of dependent claims, no fees are believed due for the addition of claims 111-114 in this communication. These new claims are believed allowable for their dependency from an allowable independent claim, as well as by virtue of the subject matter separately recited by these dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of dependent claims 111-114.

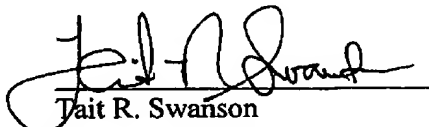
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tait R. Swanson
Reg. No. 48,226
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545